

**NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE  
CONSERVATION PRACTICE STANDARD**

**SPOIL SPREADING**

(Acre)

**CODE 572**

**DEFINITION**

Disposing of surplus excavated materials.

**PURPOSE**

To permit use of land occupied by spoil for agriculture and other purposes, to facilitate establishing and controlling vegetation along banks, to provide a travelway along banks for use and maintenance, to provide borrow for land grading, leveling, or smoothing, or to improve landscape quality.

**CONDITIONS WHERE PRACTICE APPLIES**

This practice applies to sites where spoil material is available from excavation of channels, drainage ditches, irrigation canals, or other construction sites and where it is desirable and economically feasible to achieve one or more purposes. Spoil is disposed by placing it in depressions by shaping and spreading on adjacent lands to the required excavations or by placing and shaping in designated areas.

**CRITERIA**

All planned work shall comply with all Federal, State and local laws and regulations.

Spoil shall be spread over a designated area according to an approved plan or as modified by a technician at the site where authorized in the contract or otherwise feasible. Provisions shall be made for the diversion or safe passage of surface water concentrating on the

landside of the spoil-banks along channels, ditches, or canals. Location and placement of spoil shall be such as to avoid unnecessary destruction of riparian vegetation.

The spoil shall be placed so as not to endanger the stability of the ditch bank and shall not exceed 3 feet in height above the natural ground surface, except by special design. The finished surface shall slope away from the edge of the channel or berm as feasible.

For spoil spreading along channels, ditches, or canals, surfaces of spoil shall not be steeper than 4 horizontal to 1 vertical on the land side and 3 horizontal to 1 vertical on the channel side if a berm is established. If the spoil is spread to the edge of the channel, the channel side slope of the spoil shall be shaped to join the side slope of the ditch bank so that loose spoil will not roll or wash into the channel or ditch.

Spoil spreading for other construction sites shall be in accordance with the standard and specification of the applicable conservation practices and shall be shaped to a designed form that blends visually with the landscape. Where appropriate, consideration should be given to using spoil for direct or indirect human benefits such as blocking views, deflecting or redirecting wind or snow, and other uses that may be identified as desirable.

**CONSIDERATIONS**

Consider if installation of this practice will have any effect on any federal or state listed Rare, Threatened or Endangered species or their habitat.

Consider potential impacts to wetlands.

Consider the effects on the volumes and rates of runoff, infiltration, deep percolation, and ground water recharge.

Consider the effects of spoil placement on long-term erosion and sediment delivery to water bodies.

Whether or not placement causes dissolved substances, including toxic materials, to enter surface or ground water.

Effects on visual quality of the disposal area and adjacent riparian areas.

## **PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS**

Plans and specifications for spoil spreading shall show the designated spoil areas, shaping requirements and revegetation requirements.

## **OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE**

Typical maintenance may include reseeding and repairing erosion blowouts.